RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: The help and co-operation of the members will be greately appreciated. The members of the Legislature will, no doubt be very much interested in the welfare of children.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that these canteens are located in places where they are not at all necessary?

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Small-pox is prevalent in coastal taluks. I want the Public Health department to check the spread of this disease.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member how long this scheme is to continue?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: It will continue so long as the milk supply is available.

PRESIDENT: I think honourable members must know the position fully well. A certain group of philanthropic Americans belonging to the Quacker Society of Friends have agreed to supply us a large quantity of milk free of cost and Mr. C. L. Cross who has been working here in conjunction with the department of Public Health and local representatives has started milk canteens. The Government of India also have offered us a certain quantity of milk from South Africa and Australia at a certain price to be fixed by them. The American supply is given gratis. The British Indian supply is given at a certain price. We are buying that milk and it is that milk that is sought to be distributed. Certain important centres have been selected for the purpose, but having regard to the demand made on the floor of the House by the honourable members of the Legislature, the question of the location of such canteens will be looked into.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know the particular items for which the amount is required?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: The items include the cost of cyano-gas, pay of Sanitary Inspectors who do cyanogasing and maintenance of certain stations in the High Ranges.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: Does it include the cost for the construction of any building?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: No, it does not include.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has the incidence of skin disease been on the increase recently in Travancore?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: There is an increase of skin disease mostly brought about by people who have returned from Assam.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have any steps been taken to prevent the spread of the disease?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: We have noticed this incidence.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether nutrition has anything to do with the skin disease?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: It is an infectious skin disease. Probably nutrition will have something to do with it.

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MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Does it attack all alike?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Yes, those who come in contact with people suffering from the skin disease will certainly contract the disease.

PRESIDENT: In Madras it affected all grades of society from the highest to the lowest and certain measures were taken by the Government to prevent its further spread. That did not seem to be of much use. Scabies was contracted by people in all grades of society and it is said that people who returned from Burma brought it.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will Government make an investigation into the whole question?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Scabies was in existence in this State for a long time.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: With regard to the sudden increase in the incidence?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Sudden increase in the incidence was due to the return of coolies from Assam.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has bad nutrition anything to do with this disease?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Yes.

MR. J. T. MORAIS (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I know what measures have been taken for bringing down small pox in South Travancore?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Vaccination campaign has been started and domiciliary vaccination is being carried on an intensive scale. About 150 people have to be vaccinated every day by each vaccinater.

MR. J. T. MORAIS: May I know whether the disease is now under control?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Yes, it is under control.

MR. J. T. MORAIS: May I know whether the lack of vitamin A is responsible for the prevalence of scabies.

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: It has not been definitely proved that the deficiency of vitamin A will cause this disease.

PRESIDENT: It is said that vitamin K has something to do with this disease

MR. J. T. MORAIS: Is it a fact that public health work in South Travancore is not being attended to because some vacancies of Sanitary Inspectors have not been filled up?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Some vacancies have not been filled up. The Public Service Commissioner has notified such vacancies but there are no applicants at present.

MR. J. T. MORAIS: Is small pox vaccination not being done properly in South Travancore due to want of sufficient hands?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: That matter will be looked into and more hands will be appointed very soon.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 18,945 under Demand XXVII—Public Health and Sanitation, was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

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